

from college, he enlisted in the Army as a private and after a period of outstanding service received a direct commission as a second lieutenant. A veteran of the war in Vietnam and the recipient of the Bronze Star and nine other medals, Judge Butler retired as a colonel from the United States Army Reserve in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Judge John Butler for his tremendous contributions to the citizens of the First Congressional District of Alabama. The experience and enthusiasm he brought to his job and the concern and compassion he displayed for the young people of the region are unquestioned and unparalleled. He has indeed been a genuine asset both to the circuit court and to the thousands of men, women, and children he has assisted over the past 2 decades. I am proud and honored to call him my friend.

Make no mistake, the judge's talents and experience on the bench will be sorely missed, but I am confident he will continue to remain actively involved in the life of the Mobile community for many years to come. Along with his friends and colleagues throughout Alabama, I wish to extend to Judge Butler and his family all the best now and in the future.

IN TRIBUTE OF DOROTHY POTTER

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and commend one of Western North Carolina's and Buncombe Counties finest citizens, the late Dorothy A. Potter. Dot, as she was fondly called by her many, many friends and acquaintances, passed away on November 8, 2003. She was a wonderful woman, who worked tirelessly for not only the Republican Party, but also to educate others about this great country's political system in general. I doubt there was ever an election that Dot did not participate in, in some shape, form or fashion.

Dorothy Belle Alexander Potter was born Feb. 24, 1920, in Charlotte, the youngest daughter of the late Robert Lester and Cynthia Welch Alexander. She was a direct descendant of Hezekiah Alexander, a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and a founding father of Charlotte. She was a classmate of the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham at Sharon High School and graduated in 1936. She earned a B.S. in library science from Queens College in 1940. Mr. and Mrs. Potter moved to Asheville in 1948.

Mrs. Potter was an energetic, founding member of the Buncombe County Republican Party and remained active in area politics for the majority of her life. She was vice chairman of the Buncombe County Republican Party for 16 years. Mrs. Potter served in many campaigns including the historic 1969 City Council Race, electing a Republican majority and Wayne Montgomery, M.D., as mayor, the 1972 gubernatorial race electing Jim Holshouser as the first Republican governor in North Carolina since Reconstruction and the 1980 election of Bill Hendon to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mrs. Potter was chairman of the Governor's Western Residence Committee during Gov.

Holshouser's tenure. She served as deputy Clerk of Court in Buncombe County and was a valued member of former Rep. Hendon's district office until 1983. She was also the Buncombe County Chairman for the 1992 election of President George H.W. Bush.

Mrs. Potter was a charter member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, where she was an Elder and served as a member of the Session. She was also a member of the board of directors for the preschool. She was the last living charter member of the Buncombe County Republican Women's Club and a lifetime member of the North Carolina Republican Women's Club. She was also a member of Phi Mu women's fraternity and was a member and officer of the Sky-Hy Chapter of the American Business Women's Association.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Lt. Col. Wesley J. Potter (ret.); daughters, Dr. Cynthia Potter Smith and husband, Durham, of Lake Wylie, S.C., and Lynda Potter Fagan and husband, Michael, of Asheville; granddaughter, Shanon Fagan of Asheville; grandson, Matthew Smith and wife, Sonya, of Clover, S.C.; and granddaughter, Erin Fagan of Washington, D.C., and Asheville.

Mrs. Potter is also survived by three great-grandchildren; a niece, Sally Pollock and a nephew, Robert Suther, both of Washington state and a great-nephew.

IN HONOR OF WALTER COMEAUX

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my hearty congratulations to Walter Comeaux, a friend and colleague from my district, upon the completion of 30 years of public service. In that time, Mr. Comeaux has dutifully served the people of Lafayette Parish and exemplified what it truly means to be a servant of the people.

Mr. Comeaux has spent more than half of his life working to better the local government in Lafayette Parish. He began as a young City Council member in Broussard, Louisiana, and then as member of the Lafayette Police Jury, including 4 years as president of that body. However, his greatest political accomplishment came as the Lafayette City and Parish governments consolidated in 1996. He was elected as the first City-Parish Council President and charged with the difficult task of making the newly formed government operate smoothly. As the first chief executive of the City-Parish government, Mr. Comeaux excelled; and 4 years later his constituents returned him to office. In his 8 years as president, he made countless improvements to the parish infrastructure while working to craft an efficient and responsive local government.

At the end of his career of service, I have no doubts that Lafayette is a better place to live due in large part to his efforts. I know that he is looking forward to more time with his family and friends, but his departure will certainly be a loss. I applaud his success and appreciate the time and commitment he has given as a public officer.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ED SWAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Ed Swan on the occasion of his retirement from the Mobile district office of the Social Security Administration. For the past 30 years, he has served the families of the State of Alabama with compassion, dedication, and a tremendous level of commitment to the men, women, and children served by the Social Security Administration.

Beginning in June 1973, with his first assignment to the Social Security office in Mobile, Alabama, Ed Swan worked for 3 decades in a succession of representative and supervisory roles in five Social Security offices throughout the State. His outstanding record as a service representative, claims representative, operations supervisor, branch manager, and management assistant in the Social Security system resulted in positive results for the many families who benefited from his efforts. Additionally, the work ethic he displayed resulted in his receiving numerous citations and awards, including a Regional Commissioner's Team Citation for his work with the Disability Claims Manager pilot program in Mobile.

Ed Swan is also one of America's proud veterans, having served in the United States Navy with distinction while assigned to Air Squadron 27 on board the aircraft carrier USS *Intrepid*.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Ed Swan for his tremendous contributions to the citizens of the First Congressional District of Alabama. The experience and enthusiasm he brought to his job and to the Social Security Administration will indeed be missed, but I have no doubt he will turn his talents to many other positive pursuits in the days and months to come. Ed has indeed been a genuine asset both to his agency and to the thousands of men and women he assisted over the past 3 decades, and I have been proud to call him my friend.

Along with his many friends and colleagues throughout Alabama, I wish to extend to Ed Swan; his lovely wife, Cynthia; and their children, Jason and Kellie all the best in the months and years ahead.

HONORING PATRICIA GARMAN AS CENTRAL FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Garman as Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year.

Ms. Garman, known to friends and colleagues as Patt, is widely respected throughout the Fairfax business community. Honest